

Junior Wildland Firefighter Activity Booklet



"SCORCHY" SQUIRREL

Dear Junior Firefighter,

You're invited to discover wildland fire's role in our National Parks and become Junior Wildland Firefighters for the National Park Service. Learn how firefighters manage fire to protect property, lives, and ensure forest health.

To become a Junior Wildland Firefighter and earn a Wildland Firefighter Junior Ranger Badge you must...

- Be 7 to 12 years of age.

Attend the Junior Wildland Firefighter Program at Ozark National Scenic Riverways

OR

- Answer the questions in this book.

Bring your completed book to a Visitor Center at Ozark National Scenic Riverways and receive your Jr. Ranger Badge.



Name

Friendly Fire

Wildland fire or forest fires are an essential, natural process. Fire has helped shape our ecosystems at Ozark National Scenic Riverways for thousands of years. Fire helps recycle dead plants, releasing nutrients back into the soil. These nutrients help new plants grow which provides habitat for animals. Fire is a combination of heat, oxygen, fuel, and an ignition source. This is called the fire triangle. Lightning causes some forest fires, but people often cause them through carelessness.



Hmm, what job do wildland firefighters do? Solve the word puzzle below to find out!

Use the examples below to help you...

CRACK the **CODE**

Answer: A B C D E

Code: + # % ! \$



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What's the Difference?

Wildland firefighters fight forest fires. House fires are put out by structural firefighters. Although the job is different, a lot of the equipment that the firefighters use and wear is alike.



Can you find some similar equipment used by each kind of firefighter?

Look at the list of safety equipment in the middle of the two firefighters. Draw a line from the equipment listed to where it is located on both of the firefighters.

Structural/House Firefighter



Wildland/Forest Firefighter



Helmet

Back Pack

Eye and ear
Protection

Tool

Gloves

Leather Boots

Fire Resistant
Coat and Pants

Fire Engine Tool Scramble

Wildland firefighters use fire trucks to carry people, water, and tools to wildfires. The activity below lists some of the tools that firefighters carry on their fire trucks to control wildland fires.



If you want to be a firefighter you need to know your tools!
What tools are these? Draw lines between them.

1.



Chainsaw

Protects your legs when using a chainsaw

2.



Fire hose

Used for lighting prescribed fires

3.



Wildland fire helmet

Cuts and scrapes fireline trenches

4.



Chaps

Used for cutting trees down

5.



Drip torch

Used to protect your head from falling trees

6.



Pulaski

Used for flowing water

Fire Investigator

Read the story:

During your visit to Ozark National Scenic Riverways you decide to hike the Ozark Trails that passes near Rocky Falls and Klepzig Mill, through the woodlands, and along the open fields.

You're hiking along through the woods when suddenly you emerge and see that the ground is blackened for acres. You think to yourself, "Isn't that strange?"

You keep walking. All along the trail you notice that the soil is black, but there are fresh green shoots of grass poking up. The trees near the edges of the prairie are also charred at the base of the trunks.

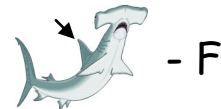
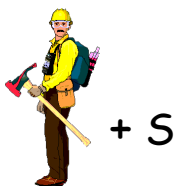
Ok, that's it! It's been at the back of your mind, but now you're positive.

A fire burned through here! Was it a fire out of control? Was it by accident or on purpose?



Solve the puzzle to find out who caused the fire. Write your answers on the lines below.

Use a combination of letters and pictures to make words. It may be helpful to "read" the puzzle out loud. Some of the pictures make a sound of the word, but are spelled differently. Be sure to look where the arrows are pointing in some of the pictures.



3-RE



2




-y+ EP 3-RE

10-T+V+



-CE

H+  -S + THY.

Junior Wildland Firefighter Quiz



Answer the questions below.

- List the big three that make up the fire triangle.

A.

B.

C.

- Your family is on a camping trip in a national park. While you are setting up your tent, you find a set of matches. What should you do?

A. see if they work and try to light a fire.

B. leave them on the ground.

C. pick them up and give them to an adult.

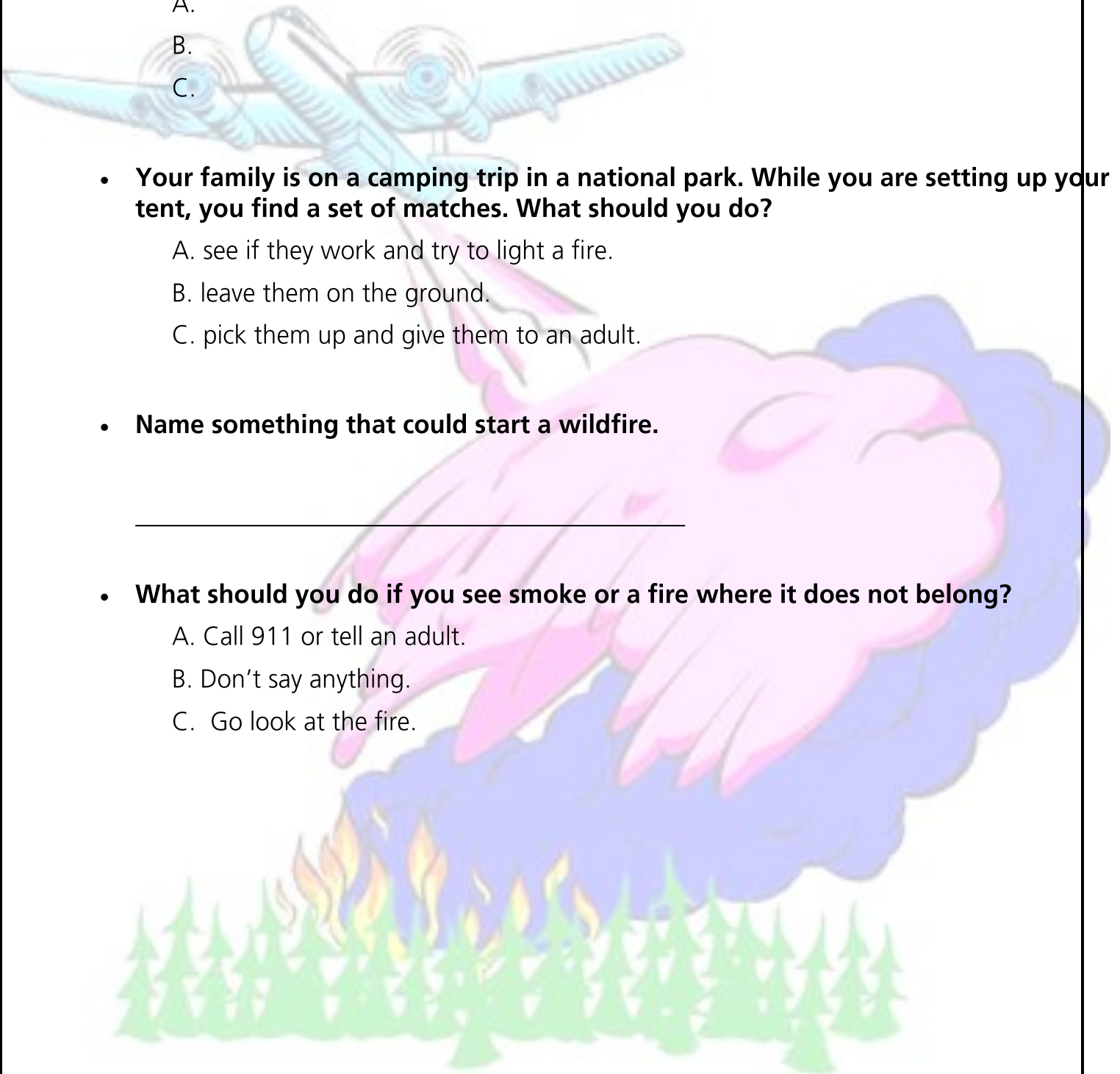
- Name something that could start a wildfire.

- What should you do if you see smoke or a fire where it does not belong?

A. Call 911 or tell an adult.

B. Don't say anything.

C. Go look at the fire.



Firefighter Physical Training

In order to become a wildland firefighter you have to pass a physical fitness test. Firefighters have to carry a 45-pound backpack for 3 miles in less than 45 minutes. Forest fires take many hours and sometimes days to put out. That is a lot of hiking around and working! As a junior firefighter you need to stay fit and eat healthy. Now it is time to test your fitness!



Can you pass the Junior Wildland Firefighter Test?

Put a check mark next to all of the physical tests you complete.



1. Do 5 knee push ups _____

2. Do 10 jumping jacks _____

3. Do 5 sit ups _____

4. Do 10 bicycles _____



Junior Wildland Firefighter Pledge

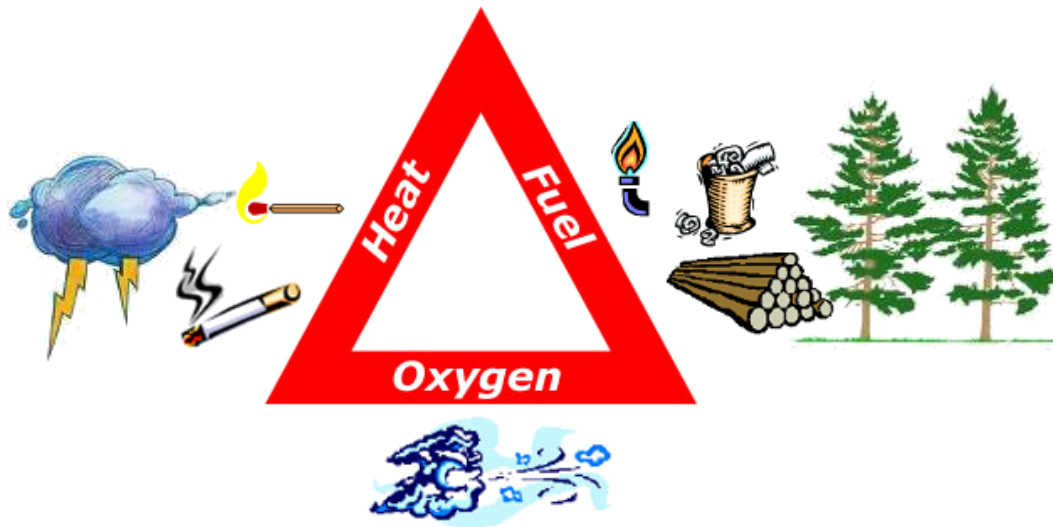
As a Junior Wildland Firefighter, I _____, promise to protect and preserve the plants, animals, and culture of Ozark National Scenic Riverways. I will share what I have learned about wildland fire in National Parks, and will continue to explore our national treasures.

Firefighter Definitions

Ecosystems- A collection of living things and the environment in which they live. For example, a prairie ecosystem includes coyotes, the rabbits on which they feed, and the grasses that feed the rabbits.

Fire Triangle

Fire is a chemical reaction which needs three things to be present so it can happen:



OXYGEN (air we breathe) + **HEAT** (lightning, spark) + **FUEL** (trees, grasses)
= **FIRE**

If one of these is not present, the fire cannot start. If one of these is taken from a fire it will go out.

Recycle- to reuse. When a fire burns through a forest it turns some trees into ash. This ash then mixes with the soil. This new soil provides nutrients for other plants and trees to live on.

Habitat-the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.